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ABSTRACT

This teachers' guide to activities celebrating Women's History Month focuses on women whose important contributions have been omitted from history textbooks. Women's History Month grew from a 1977 celebration of Women's History Week and is intended to bring women's history into the school curriculum. International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8 of each year, provides a multicultural perspective for Women's History Month. The following student activities are included: (1) "Contemporary Women in Politics and Government" comprises brief paragraphs focusing on the contributions of 15 women, and suggestions for student activities; (2) "Women Around the World: Matching Activity" challenges students to match the names of 11 internationally known women with their contributions; (3) "Scramble Puzzle" requires students to identify a list of 20 names and terms from women's history; (4) "Women's History Quiz" comprises a nine-item fill-in-the-blank quiz; and (5) "Women's History Month Match" comprises instructions for designing an activity that requires matching the names of famous women with their achievements. Teachers' answer sheets are included with the matching activity, the puzzle, and the history quiz. A list of seven activities for teachers emphasizes displays, women speakers, and videos. A copy of the congressional resolution designating the month of March as "Women's History Month" is included. (FMW)

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WOMEN'S HISTORY

"Heritage of Strength and Vision"

Developed by
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Preface

This document has been prepared by Carolyn M. Leonard, Coordinator of Multicultural/Multiethnic Education and Dr. Mariam Baradar, Multicultural/Multiethnic Technical Support for Portland Public Schools. It supports the Portland Public School District's multicultural goal:

> "...to develop in all students a better understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, and contributions to society of different ethnic groups and culture."

This publication is designed to provide information about Women's History Month for students, teachers, and all professional people in the education field.

WOMEN'S HISTORY
"HERITAGE OF STRENGTH AND VISION"

Women's history provides a whole new way of looking at the events and individuals who have made this country what it is today. The multicultural study of women's lives brings to the fore many new themes in American life, stories to which all girls and boys, women and men can relate.

History, as it has been traditionally taught, has focused on political, military, and economic leaders and events. This approach has virtually excluded women, people of color, and the mass of America's ordinary citizens. To the children of those ignored groups, history has come to be seen as remote and lifeless, a tale having little bearing on their own lives. By expanding the focus of "history" to include the stories of women's lives, whether they reflect everyday life experiences or the role women have played in the major events of our nation's past, our students can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of American history.

This year's theme, "*Heritage of Strength and Vision*," celebrates the heroes of our past, women whose important contributions have been left out of the history textbooks for too long. These women of earlier generations can provide important role models for our daughters and sons as they begin to envision their own futures. "*Heritage of Strength and Vision*" also celebrates the lives of common women from all walks of life, women whose everyday struggles for survival in a growing nation made possible the lives we lead today. It is in the lives of such women that inspiration and vision for the future can be found.

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

Designating the month of March as "Women's History Month"

Whereas American women of every race, class, and ethnic background helped found the Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways as servants, slaves, nurses, nuns, homemakers, industrial workers, teachers, reformers, soldiers and pioneers; and

Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of our Nation's life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working in and outside of the home; and

Whereas American women have played a unique role throughout our history by providing the majority of the Nation's volunteer labor force and have been particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in the country; and

Whereas American women of every race, class and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, not only to secure their own right of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor union movement and the modern civil rights movement; and

Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the month of March is designated as "Women's History Month," and the President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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REPLACEMENT SHEET FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY BOOKLET

Introduction

"Heritage of Strength and Vision" is this year's theme for Women's History Month. Until recently, the contributions of women to society were almost totally absent from school curricula and from our culture's consciousness.

In 1977, a local celebration of Women's History Week began to bring women's history into the curriculum in the schools of Sonoma County, California. Three years later President Carter issued a Women's History Week Proclamation; it was passed by Congress in 1981. By 1986 Women's History Week celebration was expanded to an entire month. Hence, March 1987 was proclaimed by the Congress as the first Women's History Month*.

International Women's Day is also celebrated on March 8th of each year providing a multicultural perspective for Women's History Month. The purpose is to recognize and appreciate the diverse achievements and contributions of women, and to inspire the younger generation to shape a better vision for our future.

* See Proclamation, page iii.

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CONTEMPORARY WOMEN IN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

As we review the history, we come across many ordinary women who have done extraordinary things for the good of their families, communities and countries. However, our focus this year will be to recognize and appreciate the achievements and contributions of contemporary women in politics and government.

Directions:

Use the brief paragraphs that follow to increase students' awareness of women of accomplishment.

Suggested activities:

1. Have students gather additional facts about one or more of the women discussed below (i.e., Are they still living? Where were they born? Were there other leaders in their families?).
2. Discuss the skills, qualities, or educational attributes that might have been necessary to accomplish the feat or recognition.
3. Have the students locate the countries which each of these contemporary women represents.

Among the twentieth century leaders is **Shirley Chisholm**, an outspoken champion of women's and minority concerns. She successfully ran for the New York State Assembly, and in 1968, she was the first African-American woman to enter Congress. In 1972, Shirley Chisholm entered the Democratic presidential race, receiving 151 delegate votes at the party's national convention.

In California, another barrier was broken as **Graciela Olivarez** (Grasi-ella Olie-var-ez), a community activist, was elected to chair the Board of Directors of the Mexican American Legal

Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in 1970, the first and only woman to achieve that office.

Sandra Day O'Conner, who graduated from Stanford University's law school in 1952, found traditions hard to break then. But, when President Ronald Reagan nominated her to the United States Supreme Court, she became the first woman to serve in the court's 191-year history.

In 1983, 22 years after the United States launched its first manned space capsule, **Dr. Sally Ride** became the first American woman to fly in space.

In 1985, **Wilma Mankiller** was elected Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the first woman to lead a major Indian nation.

Margaret Hilda Thatcher (1925) became the first woman party leader in British History. Thatcher became prime minister after the Conservative party which she heads defeated the Labour Party in a Parliamentary general election in 1979. In 1983, her party again won a Parliamentary general election, and she remained of prime minister. Thatcher has worked to reduce government control over Britain's economy.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike ran for the prime mininistership of Sri Lanka for the first time in 1959 to replace her husband after he was assassinated. She became Sri Lanka's prime minister and ran the country with a strong hand until defeated in the 1965 election. She won the office as prime minister again in 1970. She held the office until 1977.

Golda Mabovitch Meir became prime minister of Israel in 1969 by winning the office in the general election. She resigned on April 1974. Even after her resignation, during a turbulent crisis of parties and personalities in the aftermath of October War of 1973, she continued to be viewed as the single figure in the

Israeli leadership who could serve as a rallying point for the country.

Indira Gandhi (1917-1984) was the first woman prime minister of India. A group of Congress Party leaders in 1966 selected Indira Gandhi as their instrument to head the government of India. However, Ms. Gandhi was her own woman; she chose her Cabinet and ruled independently. The results of the general election of 1967 placed her firmly in power. She scheduled the 1972 parliamentary elections, a year early and won by an enormous margin. Indira Gandhi held the office until 1977 and from 1980 until her death in 1984.

In December 1974, **Mme. Elizabeth Domitien** was appointed Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, bringing to the government nearly 25 years of political experience. Though Mme. Domitien offered opposition, Bokassa declared himself Emperor and established a constitutional monarchy. Thus, Mme. Domitien was removed from her post in December 1976.

Queen Elizabeth II (1926) became head of the British Commonwealth of Nations on February 1952 following the death of her father. The love the people of the Commonwealth, and especially Londoners, have for her was evidenced anew during the celebration of her 25th Jubilee in June 1977.

Margrethe II (1940) daughter of King Frederik IX of Denmark succeeded to the throne on January 1972 the day after her father died. Denmark's first Margrethe ruled as a powerful regent in the late 14th and early 15th centuries but never received the formal title of Queen because the right of female succession did not exist. Thus, Margrethe II is the first real Queen of Denmark.

Queen Juliana Louise Emma Marie Wilhelmina (1909) has been the reigning sovereign of the kingdom of the Netherlands since September 6, 1948. She became the ruler when her mother, Queen Wilhelmina abdicated.

Corazon Aquino (1933) became the first woman president of the Philippines in February 1986. She succeeded Ferdinand E. Marcos. As president, Aquino abolished the National Assembly and claimed all legislative power for herself. She also replaced the Constitution with a temporary constitution and appointed a committee to write a new constitution, which was adopted by the people of the Philippines in February 1987.

Benazir Bhutto became the first woman prime minister of Pakistan on November 16, 1988. She is the first female leader of a Muslim country. Benazir Bhutto was appointed prime minister when her party (Pakistan People's Party) won Pakistan's first democratic government election in eleven years.

Sources:

World Book Encyclopedia, 1988 ed.

O'Neil, Lois Decker, ed. ***The Women's Book of World Records and Achievements.*** Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, 1979.

"A First Lady for Islam." ***Newsweek*** December 12, 1988.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD
Matching Activity

There are women from all over the world who have made great contributions. To find out who these women are, match the names listed in the right column with the description on the left. Have students locate the countries each of these women represents.

1. "La Pasionaria," Spanish Political Party leader whose 40-year exile ended with her return to Spain in 1977.	Marie Cox
2. Is credited for getting the U.S. Government to return the land of her Menominee Nation to reservation status.	Jihan Sadat
3. American Indian artist and activist. She is the founder of the Nihewan Foundation, which provides scholarships and other aid to American Indian students.	Chiang Ching

4. Wife of People's Republic of China's late chairman Mao Tse-Tung, and leader of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, was the most powerful woman in the Communist world until her husband's death in 1976.	Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
5. Wife of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is an independent Middle Eastern feminist and social activist who has tried to reform the divorce laws of Egypt.	Ada Deer
6. Founder and President of Americans for Indian Opportunity, a national non-profit Indian organization, whose primary purpose is to work toward improving the quality of life for American Indians.	Buffy Sainte-Marie
7. Founder of the First Organization of American Indian Women.	Josina Abiathar Muthemba

8. World's most admired woman in international polls (more often than anyone else). Noted as humanitarian, author, UN delegate, and active force in the United States Democratic party. She was a symbol of the new role women were to play in the world.	Saida Agrebi
9. Founder of the American Indian Survival School.	Dolores Ibarruri
10. Head of the First Women's Division of the Arab Labor Organization.	LaDonna Harris
11. African Liberationist, Josina dedicated her life to Mozambique's liberation from the Portuguese.	Lorelei Means

There are many more women whose names and contributions should appear but who are not represented because of the limitation of research time.

Sources:

World Book Encyclopedia, 1988 ed.

O'Neil, Lois Decker, ed. ***The Women's Book of World Records and Achievements***. Garden City, New York: Anchor Press, 1979.

TEACHER'S ANSWER SHEET

1. *Dolores Ibarruri*
2. *Ada Deer*
3. *Buffy Sainte-Marie*
4. *Chiang Ching*
5. *Jihan Sadat*
6. *LaDonna Harris*
7. *Marie Cox*
8. *Anna Eleanor Roosevelt*
9. *Lorelei Means*
10. *Saida Agrebi*
11. *Josina Abiathar Muthemba*

SCRAMBLE PUZZLE

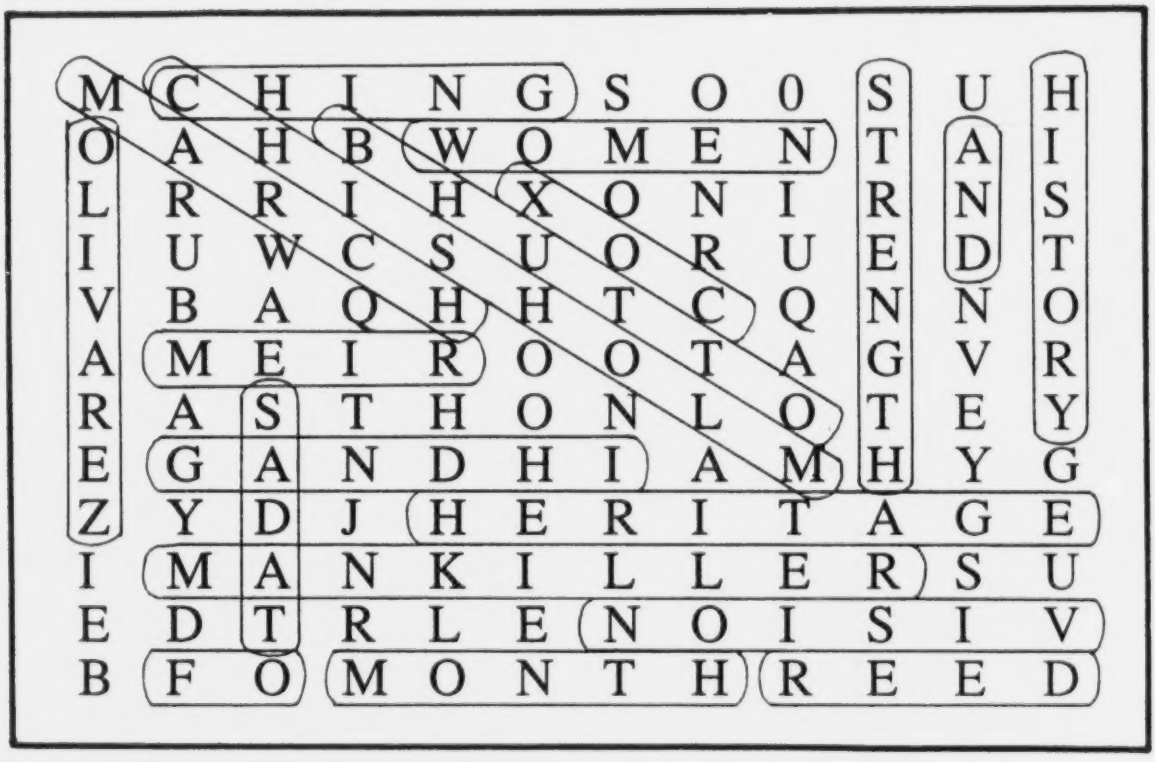
Direction: Circle the words listed below on the puzzle.

M	C	H	I	N	G	S	O	0	S	U	H
O	A	H	B	W	O	M	E	N	T	A	I
L	R	R	I	H	X	O	N	I	R	N	S
I	U	W	C	S	U	O	R	U	E	D	T
V	B	A	Q	H	H	T	C	Q	N	N	O
A	M	E	I	R	O	O	T	A	G	V	R
R	A	S	T	H	O	N	L	O	T	E	Y
E	G	A	N	D	H	I	A	M	H	Y	G
Z	Y	D	J	H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E
I	M	A	N	K	I	L	L	E	R	S	U
E	D	T	R	L	E	N	O	I	S	I	V
B	F	O	M	O	N	T	H	R	E	E	D

WORDS

MARCH	CHISHOLM	AQUINO	STRENGTH
WOMEN	MANKILLER	OF	GANDHI
HISTORY	CHING	SADAT	HERITAGE
MONTH	OLIVAREZ	AND	VISION
MEIR	COX	BHUTTO	DEER

ANSWER SHEET


M C H I N G S O 0 S U H
O A H B W O M E N T A I
L R R I H X O N I R N S
I U W C S U O R U E D T
V B A Q H H T C Q N N O
A M E I R O O T A G V R
R A S T H O N L O T E Y
E G A N D H I A M H Y G
Z Y D J H E R I T A G E
I M A N K I L L E R S U
E D T R L E N O I S I V
B F O M O N T H R E E D

WOMEN'S HISTORY QUIZ

Direction: Fill the blanks with the appropriate words or dates.

1. Women's History Week began in _____ .

2. _____ was the first African-American woman to enter the Democratic presidential race in the United States.

3. In 1985, _____ was the first woman to lead a major Indian nation.

4. Women's History Month is celebrated to _____ .

5. _____ has been the prime minister of Great Britain since 1979.

6. In February 1986, _____ became the first woman president of the Philippines.

7. The first and only woman to Chair the Board of Director of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund in California was _____ .

8. International Women's Day is celebrated on _____ .

9. The first woman to become a prime minister in a Moslem country is _____ .

ANSWER SHEET

1. 1977.

2. Shirley Chisholm.

3. Wilma Mankiller.

4. to recognize and appreciate the achievement and contributions of women.

5. Margaret Thatcher.

6. Corazon Aquino.

7. Graciela Olivarez.

8. March 8.

9. Benazir Bhutto.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MATCH

Directions:

- Make two sets of cards.
- Choose 10 women from Contemporary Women in Politics and Government/Women Around the World, pages 2-7.
- Write the names on one set.
- Write one or two sentence about each of the 10 woman on the second set of the cards.
- Divide the class into two groups.
- Give each student in the first group a card with the name on it.
- Give each student in the second group a card with sentences on it.
- Have students match their cards. (Match the names with the description.)
- Ask the students to work as a pair, do thorough research, write a short biography about her, and find the country that she comes from on the map of the world.
- Have each pair make a class presentation.

Suggested Activities For Teachers

- Display books, photographs, posters, and memorabilia honoring women's contributions.

- Invite a woman speaker who has made important contributions to the community.

- Have students research the life of notable women and write a one-page report. .

- View the "AARP Women's History Month" videos with the class.

  - *AARP Women's History Month* - Shirley Chisholm - 17 min.
    Shirley Chisholm speaks of the initial women's rights movement, the resurgence of the movement in the 60's, and the changes that have resulted.
    Ask the students: "Why Shirley Chisholm did not list American Indian people in the struggle for women's rights?"

  - *AARP Celebrates National Women's History Month* with Susan Butruille in "*Women I Wish I Had Known*" - 50 min.
    In a combination of lecture, poetry and song, Susan Butruille speaks of the role of women in the world. She acknowledges historical figures as well as contemporary individuals.

  Have a class discussion about the two videos.

- Have each student select one woman portrayed on the "National Women's History Month--Heritage of Strength and Vision" poster. Ask them to research and prepare a one-page biography. Have them present their paper to the class. Follow with class discussion.

- Have students decorate the door to their classroom to honor a particular woman or group of women. Encourage other classrooms to do the same during National Women's History Month.

- Have students use local newspapers or magazines to determine how women are displayed or portrayed on the media. Discuss or have students write original paragraphs on their findings.

END

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